

KRUSE IS CENSURED

The Council Passes a Resolution Condemning Him

FOR HIS CARELESS METHODS

In Handling Money Belonging to the City—A Lively and Interesting Parley by the Aldermen.

It was 8 o'clock last night before the council resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the purpose of investigating the charges preferred against Poor Director Kruse by Alderman Sprout. The absentees were Alderman Tateum and Dunton. Mayor Uhl called the body to order and invited Alderman Stein to the chair. Alderman Carpenter then submitted the report of the committee on claims and accounts, as follows:

Committee's Report.

To the Honorable the Common Council of the City of Grand Rapids:

Gentlemen—Your committee on claims and accounts to whom was referred the matter of ascertaining whether or not the money covered by the check of Mrs. J. M. Dudley, deputy treasurer of the U. B. A. Home, for the sum of \$43.42 in favor of Joseph Kruse or bearer had been paid over to the city treasurer, respectfully report that your committee has carefully examined into said matter and herewith submit a statement furnished by the city treasurer of all monies paid to the city treasurer by the director of the poor, and the same is as follows:

June 2, 1890.....	8.00
April 4, 1891.....	50.00
February 10, 1892.....	113.15
Total.....	\$233.15

Your committee further report, that upon examination of the cash book kept in the office of said director of the poor by the clerk in said office, that said total agrees in amount entered upon said cash book by said clerk as having been received in said office.

Your committee further find that said check of \$43.42 was received in said office as per receipt of date, March 17, 1892, in the handwriting of said clerk, H. D. Minchen, signed by said director of the poor, which said check and receipt are hereto annexed.

Your committee find that no entry of receipt of said check or of the avails thereof, was made by said clerk in said cash book.

Your committee further report, that Mrs. J. M. Dudley informs your committee that she delivered said check to Mr. Kruse in the presence of said clerk, at the office of the director of the poor, March 25, 1891, at which time she received the above receipt, which was drawn by Mr. Minchen and signed by Mr. Kruse.

Kruse's Office.
Your committee further report, that Mr. Kruse presented to your committee a statement of various moneys advanced by him as director of the poor for city charges, amounting in the aggregate to \$22.71, which statement accompanied this report and is marked "A."

Your committee further annex to this report a statement furnished by the city treasurer of the dates and amounts as they appear upon the books of his office, of the moneys paid by the predecessors of Mr. Kruse, which is hereto attached, marked "B."

Your committee further report, that they have learned from Mr. Kruse that there are not and were not any cash book or books of account in the office of the director of the poor showing the receipts and expenditures prior to his entering upon the duties of his office, which he has been able to find, or which have ever been turned over to him or come into his hands.

Your committee report from an examination of the cash book now kept in said office of the director of the poor by said clerk, that the same is kept in an unsystematic manner, so that it is difficult, without verbal explanation, to properly understand the same.

What He Claims to Own.

From the foregoing it will appear, as near as your committee has been able to ascertain the facts, that there is now in the hands of the director of the poor, to be by him accounted for, the sum of \$13.71, after deducting amounts due him for the above advances, as shown in schedule "A," for which advances the said director of the poor exhibited proper vouchers.

Your committee is of the opinion that the request of the director of the poor of date March 7, 1892, page 225, volume 2, printed proceedings, asking the council to adopt proper rules and regulations for the conducting of the business of the poor department, should be speedily adopted, so that all question of conflict of authority in said department be avoided in the future. Respectfully submitted,

FRANK P. CARPENTER,

ED. N. STEIN,

ADOLPH WENZELRO,

Committee on Claims and Accounts.

When the clerk had finished reading, Alderman Conger asked that the first amount, in exhibit "A," which was attached, be read to show the date upon which Kruse had advanced the money which was used as an offset. The clerk stated it to be March 9, 1892.

The Fun is Started.

Alderman Conger: "I would like to ask the committee on claims and accounts by what authority it presents an itemized statement of money disbursed by Poor Director Kruse in March—this month—1892, to offset money in his possession due the city over a year ago?"

Alderman Carpenter: "The committee was unable to find in the books of the city treasurer an entry showing that Poor Director Kruse paid in the \$43.42. But the committee thinks and would recommend that the poor director have in his hands money for the purpose of using in cases of emergency, be read to show the date upon which this would be a convenience. The committee was unable to find on the books in the poor director's office anything in regard to the check. The books of the office were in such a state that the committee could not find out anything. It was impossible to tell what part of the money received by Kruse was turned over by him. Going back it was ascertained that under the administration of Joseph Rupprecht, it is found that it was his custom to settle with the treasurer semi-annually."

Looked For a Bad Precedent.

Alderman Conger: "It seems to me

that the committee was looking for a bad precedent in the matter of setting accounts. If—"

Alderman Carpenter interrupting: "There is a schedule attached."

Alderman Conger continuing: "I say if it had examined the books of Kruse's predecessor, Mr. Wagenmaker, it would have discovered that as soon as that gentleman received money from any source whatever he at once stepped up to the city treasurer's office and paid it in. It is a matter of record in the proceedings of this council that pursuant to an order made February 25, Kruse turned over to the city treasurer \$113.15. He was directed to turn over all the money in his possession. Alderman Sprout has produced here a check for \$42.43, which he received over one year ago, but did not turn over. Now the committee on claims and accounts presents as an offset to that money disbursed by those in March, 1892, and says that he is indebted to the city for \$13 and some cents."

Alderman O'Donnell: "As chairman of the committee on poor I can only find among the items which are presented as an offset about \$13 that should be allowed by the council."

Alderman Turner: "I would like to hear what Poor Director Kruse has to say, or his attorney, if one represents him."

Alderman Dregge: "I object to any one being heard but Kruse himself. I think—"

Chairman Stern: "I rule the alderman out of order."

Mr. Wessellus explained the council and in extenuation of Mr. Kruse's silence pleaded his inability to express himself. He ably defended him on the charge of intentional wrong doing and declared that his client was ready to pay on demand every dollar he owes the city.

Alderman O'Donnell: "I would like to inform the attorney that at the time this money was taken, and this check received, that the clerk was entirely under the direction of Kruse, who paid him his salary out of his own pocket. I would like to have the book exhibited about which there has been so much talk."

Alderman Dregge: "Kruse admits that he received this check. Perhaps there are others of which this council knows nothing."

Alderman Conger: "I met the attorney on the street this afternoon and told him there were others and that's probably the reason he refers to it. There are others. Kruse received from a Mrs. Fuller \$5.75 which has not been accounted for. I would like to ask the attorney, or Mr. Kruse, why he did not forget to deposit the check for \$42.43 received from Mrs. Dudley, not with the city treasurer, but with the Fifth National bank on the west side, where he does his business, to his own account and for his own benefit?"

Mills Ascertains Himself.

Alderman Mills: "I would like to ask the alderman from the second if Mr. Kruse's signature is on the back of the check. It might be that this check was secured from some other source than the bank. It might have been with the treasurer all this time."

Alderman Conger: "His signature was not on the back of the check."

Alderman Mills: "It doesn't seem to me that a bank would take a check without it being endorsed. I saw in the papers that one of the funny aldermen from the second said last Monday night, when asked where he was getting all this information, that it was none of his business. Now, I didn't hear him, and—"

Alderman Sprout: "Then I will speak loud enough now and tell you again that it is none of your business."

Alderman Turner: "I would like to hear Kruse or his attorney say why the check was not turned over when it was received, and Kruse did not know that he had it."

Wessellus: "He forgot it."

Alderman Conger: "I make a motion Mr. chairman, that the marshal be instructed to bring Mr. Kruse before the council."

Alderman Carpenter: "The committee had Kruse before it and he had forgotten all about these different amounts and thought his bookkeeper should have kept an account of them."

Alderman O'Donnell: "There is no use of laying this onto the bookkeeper. He only made such entries as he was instructed to make by Kruse. Let him step up and answer."

Alderman Dregge: "When the matter first came up—"

At this point the chairman shut Alderman Dregge off and announced that Kruse was not before the council. Alderman Conger prepared to question him. Kruse scraped his feet nervously and stammered: "What I have to say has already been said," and hastily retired.

Alderman Dregge: "When this matter first came up I did not pay much attention to it. I thought it simply some trouble between the poor committee and the director; but if Kruse is such an officer that he forgets to give money which does not belong to him, and can't remember where he gets it, he should be fired out. This money was taken when the clerk was under his supervision. He had no right to keep it over a year, as he has done."

Minchen Called to Appear.

Alderman Conger: "I am disappointed in the appearance made by the director of the poor before this council. I intended to ask him a few questions. I move you that Mr. Minchen, the clerk, be instructed to appear before the council."

The motion was carried, and Mr. Minchen came in and took seat facing the aldermen.

Alderman O'Donnell: "Hadin't you better put him under oath?"

Alderman Sprout: "There is no use of that."

Minchen: "Can I speak? I would prefer to be put on my oath."

Alderman Conger: "I will ask you, Mr. Minchen, if Mr. Kruse at any time wanted to know how much he owed the city?"

Minchen: "He did."

Conger: "When was that?"

Minchen: "When the council ordered him to turn over what money he had."

Conger: "What did he ask?"

Minchen: "He asked me to figure up how much he was indebted to the city."

Conger: "What did you tell him?"

Minchen: "I told him he owed, according to the books, \$67.70. This was for the care of William Smith, at the U. B. A. hospital. There was another entry of \$32, but no date, and it was not stated from what source he had received it."

Conger: "Do you know of any other amounts?"

Minchen: "Yes."

Conger: "What is it?"

Minchen: He received \$5.75 from

Mrs. Fuller last June or July for the care of C. B. Allen."

Conger: "Did you see the contract which was entered into between Effie Young and Kruse?"

Minchen: "Yes, sir."

Conger: "How much did he owe on that?"

Minchen: "I don't know. He received \$39 from her in advance, and when her husband died he gave her some back."

Conger: "Did you enter that in the books?"

Minchen: "No, sir."

Conger: "Why didn't you?"

Minchen: "Because Kruse told me not to."

Conger: "In whose employ were you at that time?"

Minchen: "I was in the employ of Mr. Kruse and he paid me my salary."

Conger: "Was there any other account?"

Minchen: "Yes, sir."

Conger: "What was it?"

Minchen: "It was with Sarah J. Edson."

Conger: "Are those accounts in the book now?"

Minchen: "No, sir."

Conger: "What has become of them?"

Ordered to Tear Out a Leaf.

Minchen: "Kruse ordered me to tear out the leaf upon which they were kept, and I did so. The Smith account and an account with Lottie Fuller were on one side of the page. These I copied into another part of the book."

Conger: "Why didn't you copy the other two?"

Minchen: "Mr. Kruse told me not to."

Conger: "Now, gentlemen of the council, I find that this \$113.15—"

Alderman Turner: "Don't the aldermen intend to let Mr. Kruse, or some of the other aldermen, question Mr. Minchen?"

Alderman Conger: "I have got the floor."

Alderman Turner: "I don't see how you got it. The chair didn't recognize you."

Alderman Conger: "That don't make any difference. I have got it, and I am going to keep it. I find that this \$113.15 is made up of \$57.70 from John Smith, \$32 from John Farr, and the balance from what Kruse says are two would-be city charges. The Edson account amounted to \$17.16 and the Young account amounted to \$18.39. These two added together make \$35.45, which Kruse says he received, and I presume he got that money from Mrs. Young and Mrs. Edson. But he said he did not want to specify. There was a receipt for this, but he destroyed it, and now there is no entry upon the books in regard to them."

Alderman Turner: "Now, I would like to ask—"

Alderman Sprout: "The check was not entered in the book." Mr. Minchen: "Why wasn't it?"

Minchen: "I was not told to enter it."

Alderman Kinney: "Didn't you draw the receipt?"

Minchen: "I did."

There were a few other unimportant questions asked by different aldermen and then the mayor asked Alderman Conger if he had found anything else. Alderman Conger replied that he had found something unparalleled in the records of the council. It was the attempt to offset money taken over a year ago by money paid out during the present month. Mr. Wessellus criticized Minchen on behalf of Mr. Kruse, but did not shake the testimony he had given. He criticized the clerk for giving what information he had, and the democratic members of the council began to giggle. Mayor Uhl criticized them severely, and said the young man should be commended. Several questions were propounded by different ones. Then Alderman Turner moved that the committee rise and report to the council that its investigation had resulted in finding that in the administration of his office Poor Director Kruse had been grossly negligent and unsystematic; that he be ordered to pay into the city treasury \$19.46, and that the committee recommend that he be subjected to the severest censure.

Kruse Executed by the Mayor.

Alderman Conger moved to amend by striking out \$19.46 and inserting \$49.17. Mayor Uhl said he considered the amendment a correct one, as the committee had no right to put in as a set-off money expended in the present month. He would collect all money due him by presenting his bills and allowing them to take the regular course. Alderman Turner accepted the amendment. Mayor Uhl said further that he did not think malfeasance or misappropriation should be charged, as he did not think Kruse would wilfully steal. He had simply been careless. This in him was reprehensible and he should go before the public as a censured man, and it should be further understood that the council did not approve of gross carelessness. Stein arose and tried to square himself for trying to smother the clerk in his report as a member of the committee on claims and accounts. Alderman O'Donnell made a few pointed remarks. Alderman Turner said the proposition was to make a report on the substitute that no thought it should not carry. He was of the opinion that when Kruse left the chamber a censured and disgraced man, he was punished enough. Alderman Conger said he didn't like the torn leaf from the book. Perhaps he went too far. He would not insist on the substitute and would withdraw it with the consent of his supporters. Alderman Dregge didn't like the idea of withdrawing his support, but was finally induced to do so. The motion was amended and then adopted, and the council adjourned.

N. B. Howlett of Grand Haven, Is Stopping at the New Livingston.

PROHIBS TO MEET

Delegates to the State Convention Beginning to Arrive.

THE FATHER OF PROHIBITION

John Russell, Chalk Talker Rollo Kirke Bryan and Mrs. Mary T. Lathrop are Here.

Quite a large number of the delegates to the state prohibition convention, to be held in this city this afternoon and tomorrow, arrived last evening. The most of them have taken quarters at the Eagle hotel. Many are stopping with friends in the city. Among the arrivals are the Rev. John Russell, the father of the prohibition party; C. K. Perrine, of Jackson; Charles P. Russell, of Detroit, chairman of the state central committee; D. W. Grandon of Adrian, editor of the Messenger; Charles Mosher, of Hillsdale; the Rev. W. C. Glenn, Rollo Kirk Bryan, of Lansing, noted as a prohibition chalk talker and crayon artist; James Hamilton, of Coldwater; C. Quick, of Westland; Gideon Vivier and William Fisher, of Detroit; W. C. Smith, of Coldwater; Dr. Julia P. Greene, secretary of Lenawee county committee and many others. A meeting of the auditing committee was held with the executive committee at the Eagle hotel last evening. The financial affairs of the party appear to be in good condition. The committee have not only paid an old debt of over \$1000 since last August, but have paid all expenses since that time, and now report a small amount of money on hand, with the expenses of the present convention provided for through the generosity of the local prohibitionists of this city.

Today's Convention.

The state convention will open at Hartman's hall at 1:30 this afternoon. The object of the convention is to elect delegates to the national convention to be held in St. Louis, Mo., June 23-29, elect a new state committee, and will partake somewhat of the nature of a conference to listen to certain papers upon plans of party work, policy to be pursued etc., which will be followed by a discussion by those present. The program this afternoon will consist of a paper by the Hon. A. S. Fairbridge on the subject: "Should Prohibition Party People Yield their Moral and Political Support to the Newly Organized People's Party?" Following the discussion of this paper will be another paper by Rev. John Russell entitled "Party Building." This will be followed by a paper by Dr. Henry A. Reynolds of red ribbon fame on the subject of "The Only Way to Secure Prohibition." The next paper will be by Mary T. Lathrop, president of the state W. C. T. U., entitled "The Million Voters' Agreement." This will be followed by a paper by Mrs. Mary Daxler, president of the White Ribbon Club, entitled "What Can the Women Do to Help the Prohibition Party During the Coming Campaign?" The last paper will be presented by Albert Dodge of the city of the subject "What Ought Prohibition Party People to Do Regarding the County Prohibition or Local Option Law?" These papers will each be fully discussed, as time will permit.

In the Evening at 7:30 o'clock a public meeting will be held in Hartman's hall, which will be addressed by the following speakers, each of whom is of national reputation as a prohibition orator: Rev. Samuel Dickie, chairman of the national committee; Mrs. Mary T. Lathrop, the Rev. John Russell, Mrs. Marion B. Baxter, and Rollo Kirk Bryan with his chalk talk. Music will be presented by the Sparta glee club.

The work of electing delegates and reorganizing the new state committee will be the program for tomorrow's session of the convention.

VICTIM OF A TRAGEDY.

A Skeleton with the Marks of a Knife in the Breast Found in the Woods.

NEW YORK, March 16.—A skeleton almost entirely stripped of flesh, but bearing in the breast bone the mark of a knife, was found in the woods on Pocomtoco hills, near Tarrytown, N. Y., yesterday. It was lying face downward and frozen to the earth. There was apparently nothing left but the bones and clothing, but upon digging away the frozen earth it was found that the face, which had been partially buried in the earth, was in fair preservation. The skeleton was apparently that of an Italian about 30 years of age. The man had worn two pairs of overalls and a jumper. An incision about two inches below the breast bone was found, which appears to have been inflicted by a long knife or stilett.

Coroner Mitchell and Doctor Forman viewed the body, and the doctor gave it as his opinion that the man had been dead about a year. A jury rendered a verdict that the man had come to his death by being stabbed by some person unknown to the jurors. The skeleton was interred in the almshouse cemetery.

BOYD FIRMLY SEATED.

The Case Formally Dismissed by the Supreme Court.

OMAHA, Neb., March 16.—The supreme court at Lincoln this morning called up the case of the state, ex rel Thayer, vs. James E. Boyd, and on motion of Governor Boyd's counsel confirmed the judgment and dismissed the case at Thayer's costs. This practically ends the case. The court might allow it to be reinstated, but no steps have been taken in the matter and none is likely to be taken. Thayer says his Texas interests occupy all his time. In the event that the case was again taken up Governor Boyd would continue to act, and it would be impossible to secure a decision before his term of office expires. This removes the greatest inducement for continuing the fight.

LOVED THE HIRED MAN.

Miss Belle Davis Prefers to Leave Home to Giving Up Her Sweetheart.

ROXBOROUGH, March 16.—Miss Belle Davis, daughter of B. Frank Davis, a leading citizen of Ware, has given occasion for plenty of gossip among society people in her town by marrying the man of her choice against the wishes of her father. The man who has caused all the trouble in the Davis household is Frank L. Booth of Northampton, who

worked on the Davis farm for about two months for \$1 a day and his board. He is a plain-looking individual, and not one that a handsome, accomplished young woman of twenty-six summers would seem likely to fall in love with at first sight, but such appeared to be the fact, and the love was mutual. The father of Miss Davis became so enraged at the daughter, who was his favorite, and on whom he had expended large sums of money in the past six years in giving her a high-class musical education at Worcester and Boston, that he told her to give up Booth or leave his house forever. Miss Davis chose the latter course. She left town alone and went to Northampton, where she met Booth. There the couple were quietly married, after which they started for Chicago, where they intend to look for what they consider kinder treatment from the girl's relatives there.

HAVE CLAIMED SCHOOL LANDS.

The Smart Trick of Thirty Railroad Gentlemen.

O'NEIL, Neb., March 16.—On Tuesday night thirty or more men arrived here from Sioux City. Some retired here to the hotels while others remained up all night. Early Wednesday morning they made a rush for the United States land office and located and entered homestead claims on sections thirty-six and sixteen, in townships thirty-two, thirty-three and thirty-four of Boyd county. Ordinarily sections sixteen and thirty-six of every township of government land, before being opened to settlement are reserved as school land, and it has been so regarded by people generally in opening Boyd county. Consequently no applications have been made to file on the above sections. How transparent that there are no provisions made reserving these sections for school lands in opening the county. How the people of Sioux City discovered the fault remains a mystery. Thirty filings made on as many quarter sections by the parties referred to, cover nearly 5000 acres of land. The men who filed on the land are all connected with the Pacific short line and the Sioux City and Northern railroads.

HEAVY FALL OF SNOW.

A Blizzard Visits the City of Memphis in Tennessee.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 16.—About noon today snow began to fall and soon a regular winter was in full possession of the city. Heavy winds drove the snow up and down the streets making it almost impossible for pedestrians to move about. Six inches of snow has fallen, and the storms still raging tonight. Reports from other points in the state and Arkansas indicate that the storm has been general. Much apprehension is felt regarding budding fruit. This storm is something almost unprecedented at this season of the year, and entails much suffering on the poorer classes who are totally unprepared to cope with a change so sudden and severe.

WILL PROTECT VESSEL MEN.

Representative McGann Has Pledged Enough to Defeat Senate Bill 1310.

WASHINGTON, March 16.—Representative McGann says the vessel interests of Chicago need have no fear of senate bill 1310. Besides the personal assurances he has from the committee men that the objectionable features shall be removed when pointed out, he has sufficient pledges of support in the house to defeat the bill should it be passed. "The purpose for which the bill was drawn up," he said today, "is to furnish the government with statistics. If government wants statistics, let it pay for them; not compel private business interests to pay for extra men to supply them."

GASLIGHT MEN PROTEST.

Threaten to Oppose the \$5,000,000 Bill Now Before Congress.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, March 16.—The Ohio Gaslight association, in session here today, with 150 members present, indorsed the action of eastern gas associations in resolving to use their influence to prevent the \$5,000,000 government loan to the World's Fair unless the World's Fair commission deals most fairly with the gas people, as between them and the electric light people. They claim that the commission has set apart a million and a half dollars to make an electric light display, and not a dollar for a gaslight exhibit. Worse than this, the location of the gaslight building, built at private expense, is in an out-of-the-way place.

AFTER TWELVE LONG YEARS

A Deserted Wife Finds Her Husband With a New Family.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., March 16.—When Peter Petruna, a mine boss, was confronted today by the wife he deserted in Poland twelve years ago, he fainted. Petruna had married again and has five children. When his second wife heard of the circumstances she became insane and carrying the youngest child on her back started crying through the streets. The child was found on her back dead from exposure. The first wife was aided in her search by a Greek priest. She hunted for her husband twelve years.

INSURANCE AGENT DISAPPEARS.

He Drank Heavily, and Left His Wife Hovering Near Death.

TOLLEDO, Ohio, March 15.—Elbert E. Pope, the most prominent insurance agent in the city, has disappeared. Special examiners of the companies he represented have already found a shortage of over \$10,000. It is believed the total will reach twice that. Pope was last seen here Saturday evening. He took several hundred dollars with him. For two months past he has drunk heavily. His wife is very ill, and her death is looked for at any moment.

World's Fair Grant Doubled.

BOSTON, March 16.—The legislative committee on federal relations today decided to make the appropriation for the Massachusetts exhibit at the Chicago fair \$150,000 instead of \$75,000.

Dropped Sixteen Stories.

CHICAGO, March 16.—At noon today a man and woman dropped from a sixteen-story window of the Masonic temple to the stone sidewalk below. Numerous people who were passing by at the time stopped and with bated breath watched the two human forms rapidly

needing the ground. Mr. and Mrs. Dodd, for such were their names, were not dashed to pieces upon the stone below, as one would suppose. They made their descent by means of a portable fire escape, the reliability of which they were testing. The new machine is designed to save lives at a fire and not to smuggle trunks out of a boarding house by night.